

International Travel & Tourism - January to September 1997

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic registered during the period January to September 1997 amounted to 998,000, representing an increase of 11% over the corresponding period of 1996. Total arrivals increased by 9% to 493,400 while total departures rose by 11% to 504,600, resulting in an excess of 11,200 departures over arrivals.

Total arrivals included 6,460 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,270 (35%) came from Reunion Island and 920 (14%) from France.

(ii) Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritians travelling abroad has increased by 11% from 87,500 in 1996 to 97,400 in 1997. The major countries visited were: Reunion Island (28%), France (17%), United Kingdom (12%), India (8%) and Singapore (7%).

2. Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals during the period January to September increased by 11% from 341,100 in 1996 to 379,800 in 1997. This increase was mainly due to growths from some major generating countries like France, Italy and United Kingdom. Furthermore, the contributions of some small generating markets, namely Netherlands, Sweden, Australia and Zimbabwe have also been significant.

92% of the tourists came on holiday while 4% came for business and 2% were in transit.

EUROPE

During the first nine months, arrivals from Europe have known a significant growth of 18% from 190,220 in 1996 to 224,030 in 1997. France remained our leading market on this continent with a growth of 11% to reach 96,200 at end of September 1997. Similarly, Italy and United Kingdom have maintained their upward trend with growths of the order of 68% and 35% respectively. Arrivals from Germany and Switzerland have been almost at the same level compared to the same period of last year while Austria and Belgium have witnessed marginal growths of 3% and 2% respectively. Among the minor segments of the European market, arrivals from Sweden have increased from 1,600 to 2,700 while those from Netherlands stood at 2,000. Arrivals from Spain have grown by 11% to reach 2,800 at the end of September 1997.

AFRICA

Arrivals from Africa have reached 121,540, that is a slight growth of 1.4% during the first nine months of this year. This was mainly due to irregular trends from the major generating countries: Reunion Island (+2%), Republic of South Africa (-2%) and Malagasy Republic (-5%). A growth of 38% from Zimbabwe was registered, which brought the number of arrivals from this country to 3,000.

ASIA

The number of tourists coming from Asia was 23,000 that is 5% above the 1996 level. The leading market from this continent, India, remained relatively at the same level at 10,000. Arrivals from Malaysia grew by 59% to stand at 1,700 at the end of September. The performance of the other Asian markets was as follows :- Japan (+6%), Singapore (+8%), People's Republic of China (6%) and Hong Kong (-22%).

OCEANIA

Arrivals from Oceania grew by 27% to stand at 7,400, mostly due to a favourable growth of 27% from Australia.

AMERICA

The number of tourist arrivals from America amounted to 3,900, which represented an increase of 28% compared to same period of last year. This was mainly due to growths of 21% from Canada and 16% from USA.

3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in Mauritius during the period January to September 1997 were estimated at 3.9 million, i.e. 12% higher than last year's figure. The average length of stay of a tourist worked out to be around 10.5 nights.

4. Hotel Statistics

The deregistration of one small hotel during the third quarter of 1997 brought the number of registered hotels to 89 at the end of September, out of which 26 were considered "Large", i.e. well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 6,705 rooms with 13,890 bedplaces while for large hotels the room capacity was 4,540 with 9,236 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rates for period January to September 1997 averaged 68% for all hotels and 76% for large hotels only. The corresponding bed occupancy rates were 60% and 68%.

5. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the first nine months is estimated at 6,982 million rupees, which is 10% higher than the figure of 6,356 million rupees registered for the same period in 1996. The average earning per tourist amounted to 18,400 rupees compared to 18,600 rupees for the same period last year.

6. Employment

At the end of March 1997, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 15,400 which is 7% higher than last year. Of this number, 69% or 10,600 were engaged in hotel.

7. Forecast

Considering the trend during the first nine months of the year, the number of tourist arrivals for the year 1997 is now estimated at around 540,000, i.e. an increase of nearly 11% over last year. Corresponding gross receipt from tourism is expected to be around 10,000 million rupees compared to 9,048 million rupees last year.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

PORT LOUIS

November 1997

Explanatory Notes

1. Tourist

A tourist is defined as a non-resident staying in the country for more than 24 hours but less than a year and is not involved in any gainful occupation during his/her stay.

2. Transit

Transit passengers are those who stop over in the country for flight connections to other destinations. There are two types of transit passengers:

Type I : Passengers who do not leave the transit area of the airport or the port.

Type II: Passengers who leave the airport or port and stay in the country for more than 24 hours for only flight connection purposes.

Only Type II transit passengers, as defined above, are included in the definition of "Tourists".

3. Excursionist or Same-day Visitor

An excursionist is a non-resident who stays in the country for less than 24 hours, other than those who do not leave the airport.

4. Tourist Nights

Tourist nights are the total number of nights spent in the country by tourists during the period under review.

5. Large Hotels

Large hotels are well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms.

6. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1995 - 1997

Month	1995		1996		1997	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	52,976	63,363	53,912	63,611	62,422	72,961
February	33,869	34,812	38,913	41,492	45,956	48,704
March	42,045	43,615	51,665	47,443	58,264	59,468
1st Quarter	<u>128,890</u>	<u>141,790</u>	<u>144,490</u>	<u>152,546</u>	<u>166,642</u>	<u>181,133</u>
April	41,549	42,055	49,825	54,720	51,506	51,635
May	41,144	42,209	46,396	45,726	52,191	51,419
June	32,986	33,131	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457
2nd Quarter	<u>115,679</u>	<u>117,395</u>	<u>135,474</u>	<u>140,345</u>	<u>148,937</u>	<u>147,511</u>
1st Semester	244,569	259,185	279,964	292,891	315,579	328,644
July	47,760	38,320	48,602	39,817	54,395	48,094
August	56,022	61,741	65,588	71,365	71,306	74,315
September	39,065	41,035	48,790	49,907	52,086	53,577
3rd Quarter	<u>142,847</u>	<u>141,096</u>	<u>162,980</u>	<u>161,089</u>	<u>177,787</u>	<u>175,986</u>
October	50,470	45,733	57,262	51,312		
November	49,691	53,748	58,536	59,987		
December	61,871	48,844	71,498	56,633		
4th Quarter	<u>162,032</u>	<u>148,325</u>	<u>187,296</u>	<u>167,932</u>		
2nd Semester	304,879	289,421	350,276	329,021		
Whole Year	549,448	548,606	630,240	621,912		

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation,

January - September 1997

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Jan. to Sep. 1997
EUROPE	9,252	9,860	15,213	34,325
Belgium	165	205	292	662
France	3,942	4,195	8,009	16,146
Germany	295	291	538	1,124
Italy	903	513	1,216	2,632
Switzerland	460	401	556	1,417
United Kingdom	3,311	4,120	4,414	11,845
Other European	176	135	188	499
AFRICA	13,230	13,091	14,788	41,109
Kenya	293	429	351	1,073
Malagasy Republic	698	629	943	2,270
Reunion	8,597	8,931	10,120	27,648
Seychelles	279	391	351	1,021
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,095	2,362	2,657	8,114
Zimbabwe	237	319	319	875
Other African	31	30	47	108
ASIA	7,106	5,362	6,644	19,112
Hong Kong	710	859	699	2,268
India	2,668	2,465	2,830	7,963
Malaysia	114	142	230	486
Singapore	1,960	1,799	2,614	6,373
Saudi Arabia	1,568	17	115	1,700
Other Asian	86	80	156	322
OCEANIA	1,029	822	677	2,528
Australia	1,029	821	677	2,527
Other Oceanian		1		1
AMERICA	95	56	108	259
U.S.A	20	17	35	72
Canada	72	39	72	183
Other American	3		1	4
NOT STATED	14	47	34	95
ALL COUNTRIES	30,726	29,238	37,464	97,428

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1993 - 1997

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts (Rs million)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
1993	85	5,341	11,058	374,630	4,610	5,362	
1994	90	5,888	12,187	400,526	4,359	6,415	
1995	95	5,977	12,359	422,463	4,435	7,472	
1996	90	6,668	13,833	486,867	4,958	9,048	
1996	1st Qr.	95	6,357	13,133	115,349	1,174	2,318
	2nd Qr.	91	6,407	13,308	103,046	1,050	1,932
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>6,407</u>	<u>13,308</u>	<u>218,395</u>	<u>2,224</u>	<u>4,250</u>
	3rd Qr.	90	6,382	13,259	122,684	1,250	2,106
	4th Qr.	<u>90</u>	6,668	13,833	145,788	1,484	2,692
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,668</u>	<u>13,833</u>	<u>268,472</u>	<u>2,734</u>	<u>4,798</u>
	1997	1st Qr.	90	6,661	13,818	134,684	1,350 *
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,120 *	2,017 *
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,950</u>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>2,470 *</u>	<u>4,610 *</u>
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,410 *	2,372 *

* Provisional

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, January - September 1997

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	January - September
Holiday	125,466	99,329	124,031	348,826
Business	4,281	4,996	4,497	13,774
Transit	2,919	2,972	3,143	9,034
Conference	422	1,995	1,313	3,730
Sports	282	337	408	1,027
Other & Not Stated	1,314	1,013	1,051	3,378
Total	134,684	110,642	134,443	379,769

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1995 - 1997

Month	Number		
	1995	1996	1997
January	42,528	42,743	50,507
February	26,587	30,870	37,254
March	33,038	41,736	46,923
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>102,153</u>	<u>115,349</u>	<u>134,684</u>
April	34,428	38,759	38,683
May	30,607	36,303	39,794
June	23,177	27,984	32,165
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>88,212</u>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>190,365</i>	<i>218,395</i>	<i>245,326</i>
July	33,833	35,656	39,716
August	42,985	50,347	55,033
September	28,928	36,681	39,694
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>105,746</u>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>
October	40,620	45,930	
November	39,437	46,130	
December	46,295	53,728	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>126,352</u>	<u>145,788</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>232,098</i>	<i>268,472</i>	
Whole Year	422,463	486,867	

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, January - September 1996/97

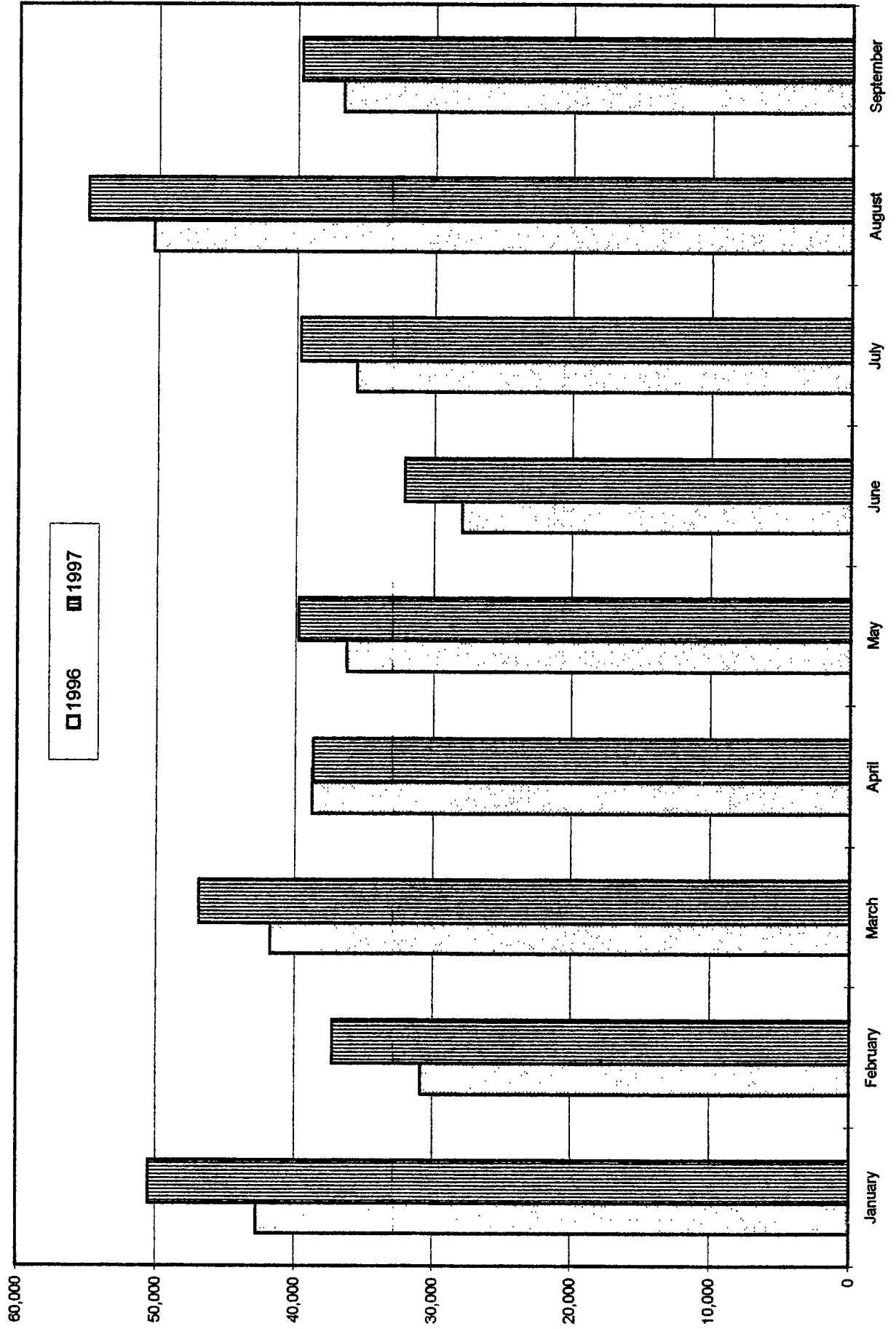


Table 6 : Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January to September 1996/1997

Country of residence	1996		1997												% Change Jan - Sep 1996/97
	Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep				
EUROPE	190,215	28,076	26,861	28,827	25,442	21,883	18,832	23,321	25,867	24,919	224,028	17.8			
Austria	5,947	1,181	1,046	751	639	718	366	502	454	462	6,119	2.9			
Belgium	5,628	571	679	738	765	456	483	841	442	758	5,733	1.9			
France	86,715	12,547	12,052	11,874	11,999	9,134	8,167	9,893	11,742	8,754	96,162	10.9			
Germany	31,313	4,712	3,485	4,717	3,256	3,816	1,837	2,742	3,422	3,436	31,423	0.4			
Italy	15,723	3,464	3,611	3,674	2,903	1,297	2,167	2,605	3,530	3,183	26,434	68.1			
Netherlands	1,517	177	171	274	286	216	203	269	147	254	1,997	31.6			
Spain	2,542	131	151	268	175	487	205	432	595	381	2,825	11.1			
Sweden	1,592	447	472	529	377	167	172	201	154	212	2,731	71.5			
Switzerland	9,761	1,344	1,164	1,249	1,016	995	720	1,321	585	1,405	9,799	0.4			
United Kingdom	23,867	2,148	2,913	3,552	2,968	3,915	3,676	3,738	4,055	5,320	32,285	35.3			
CIS	881	387	123	173	121	121	254	97	155	68	1,499	70.1			
Other European	4,729	967	994	1,028	937	561	582	680	586	686	7,021	48.5			
AFRICA	119,851	19,742	6,331	14,912	9,854	13,456	8,561	12,412	25,854	10,421	121,543	1.4			
Comoros	844	57	70	82	81	75	81	71	93	54	664	-21.3			
Kenya	832	88	54	137	131	68	83	104	122	79	866	4.1			
Malagasy Rep.	7,887	601	677	783	752	977	946	991	991	783	7,501	-4.9			
Reunion	62,506	14,399	2,196	7,567	2,628	7,693	2,301	5,541	18,346	2,994	63,665	1.9			
Seychelles	5,714	489	286	353	928	596	563	416	1,774	675	6,080	6.4			
S/ Africa Rep. of	37,032	3,685	2,626	5,258	4,256	3,372	3,917	4,527	3,568	5,039	36,248	-2.1			
Zimbabwe	2,188	188	163	358	675	329	223	275	501	313	3,025	38.3			
Other African	2,848	235	259	374	403	346	447	487	459	484	3,494	22.7			

Table 6 : Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 1996/1997 (ctd.)

Country of residence	1996		1997												% Change Jan - Sep 1996/97
	Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep				
ASIA	21,801	1,876	3,094	2,051	2,188	2,940	3,421	2,505	2,083	2,761	22,919	5.1			
Hong Kong	1,635	117	308	137	121	91	121	120	170	94	1,279	-21.8			
India	10,033	794	1,041	688	886	1,882	1,760	1,004	840	1,107	10,002	-0.3			
Japan	2,372	230	516	240	291	208	226	194	312	290	2,507	5.7			
Malaysia	1,081	75	201	238	169	149	175	194	82	435	1,718	58.9			
People's Rep. of China	1,438	96	125	172	190	171	249	175	133	218	1,529	6.3			
Singapore	2,259	243	337	235	179	202	451	361	176	246	2,430	7.6			
Other Asian	2,983	321	566	341	352	237	439	457	370	371	3,454	15.8			
OCEANIA	5,840	471	583	679	762	1,080	932	978	767	1,136	7,388	26.5			
Australia	5,578	438	542	662	741	1,055	896	950	730	1,072	7,086	27.0			
Other Oceanian	262	33	41	17	21	25	36	28	37	64	302	15.3			
AMERICA	3,020	339	377	450	430	431	418	497	456	453	3,851	27.5			
USA	1,692	175	175	299	224	246	197	222	227	201	1,966	16.2			
Canada	1,031	126	161	123	138	109	173	167	133	114	1,244	20.7			
Other American	297	38	41	28	68	76	48	108	96	138	641	115.8			
Other & not stated	352	3	8	4	7	4	1	3	6	4	40	-88.6			
All Countries	341,079	50,507	37,254	46,923	38,683	39,794	32,165	39,716	55,033	39,694	379,769	11.3			

**Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets
January - September 1996/97**

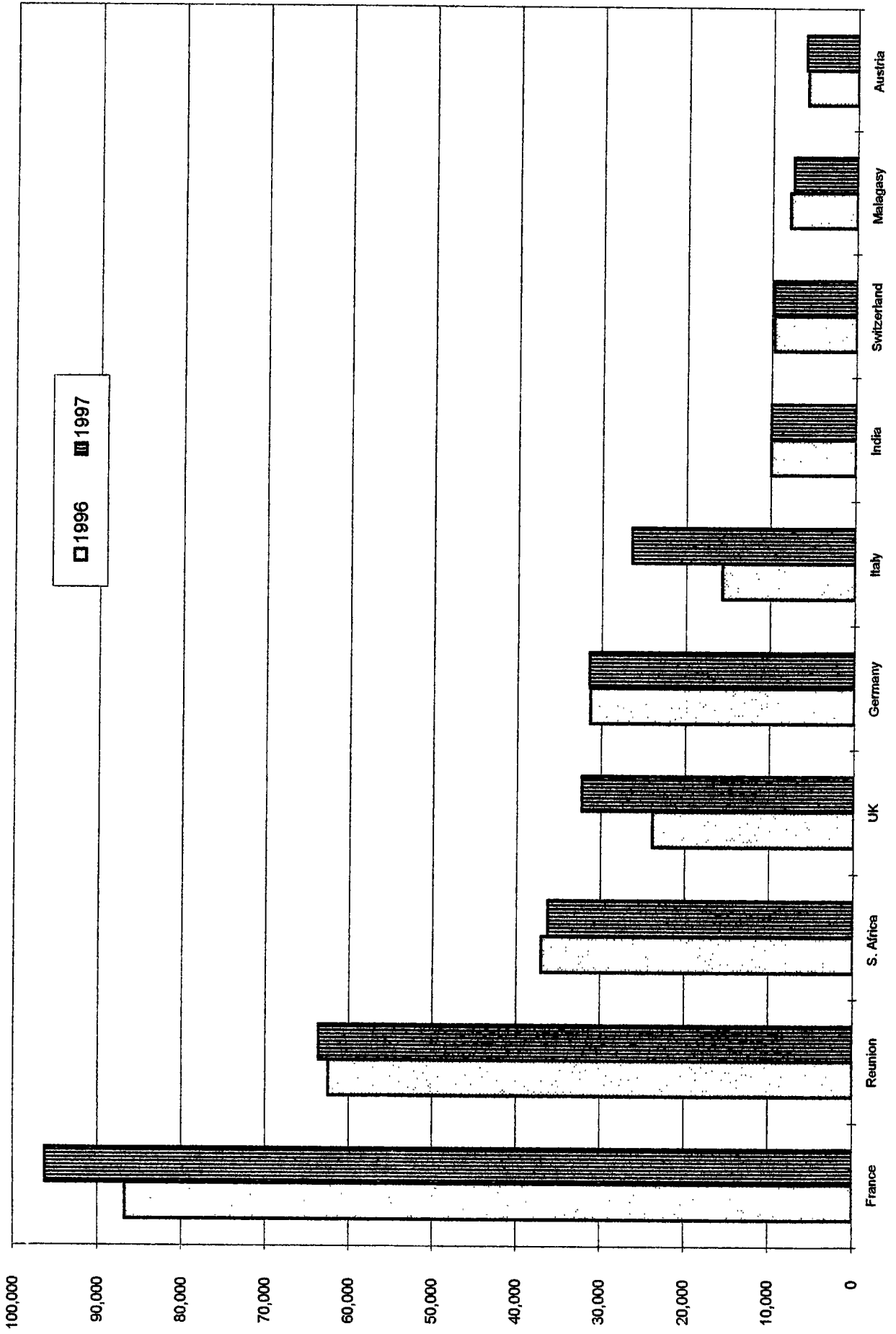


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995- 1997

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	72	72	76
February	62	67	68
March	64	69	64
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
April	61	71	69
May	64	61	65
June	59	50	53
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	64	65	66
July	53	55	63
August	69	69	76
September	63	70	78
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>
October	74	77	
November	73	83	
December	71	76	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	71	
Whole Year	66	68	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	78	80	85
February	72	77	84
March	71	76	78
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>
April	72	76	76
May	72	65	72
June	58	53	58
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	71	71	76
July	61	60	69
August	75	72	79
September	73	77	85
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>
October	87	83	
November	83	88	
December	77	79	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	76	76	
Whole Year	73	74	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	72	71	75
February	67	68	74
March	65	67	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>
April	66	67	67
May	64	57	63
June	51	47	52
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	64	63	67
July	57	53	62
August	71	63	70
September	67	68	75
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>69</u>
October	80	76	
November	80	79	
December	69	70	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>74</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	71	67	
Whole Year	67	65	

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1993 - 1997

Establishments	Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Restaurants		850	1,157	1,000	1,154	1,118
Hotels		8,271	9,082	9,340	9,666	10,575
Travel and Tourism		3,310	3,419	3,515	3,596	3,732
Total		12,431	13,658	13,855	14,416	15,425

Note: The above figures refer to large establishments only (i.e. employing 10 or more persons)